

**REMARKS**

**STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13-18, 20-22, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson et al. (U.S. 6,486,895) and Mackinlay (U.S. 6,088,032).

Claims 5, 9, 12, 19, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson et al. (U.S. 6,486,895), Mackinlay (U.S. 6,088,032), and Gounares et al. (U.S. 6,681,370).

According to the foregoing, the claims are amended, and, thus, the pending claims remain for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added in this amendment.

**REJECTIONS**

Claims 1-26 are pending.

**INDEPENDENT CLAIMS**

Claims 1, 15, 25 and 26 are independent.

The Office Action page 2 rejects claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-11, 13-18, 20-22 and 24-26 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson (US Patent No. 6,486,895) in view of Mackinlay (US Patent No. 6,088,032). Mackinlay is newly cited, and, thus, newly relied upon.

The Office Action page 7 rejects claims 5, 9, 12, 19 and 23 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson, Mackinlay and Gounares (US Patent No. 6,681,730).

A prima facie case of obviousness based upon Robertson and Mackinlay cannot be established, because Mackinlay is relied upon to meet the claimed present invention's:

...

for causing said plurality of intermediate data generating means ***to generate the respective pieces of intermediate data for displaying*** a particular linked content item of the information object, ***according to a geometric relation between said visual field and said particular linked content item of the information object***; ... and

... for causing said plurality of different display image generating means to **generate display images** of said particular linked content item of the information object from said respective generated pieces of intermediate data, to render the display image on a display memory region, **according to the geometric relation between said visual field and said particular linked content item of the information object.**

However, Mackinlay, including, for example, FIGS. 15 and 16; col. 3, lines 43-57; col. 11, lines 20-30 and lines 57-67; and column 12, lines 20-55, as relied upon in the Office Action page 3, discuss a cone walker process to control prefetching of linked documents and displaying a pile of documents, which fails to expressly disclose, for example, the claimed present invention's **"to generate the respective pieces of intermediate data** for displaying a particular linked content item of the information object, **according to a geometric relation between said visual field and said particular linked content item of the information object."** In particular, Mackinlay discusses "the Cone Walker tool enables a user to retrieve linked documents from a subject document. As the linked documents are retrieved, they are displayed using an information visualization technique commonly known as the cone tree." However, Mackinlay FIG. 15 and 16 and column 12 discuss that the cone tree visualization of linked documents is invoked via a menu selection, and point and click operations on a displayed page of the cone tree, which fails to expressly disclose the claimed present invention's **"to generate the respective pieces of intermediate data** for displaying a particular linked content item of the information object, **according to a geometric relation between said visual field and said particular linked content item of the information object."**

Further, Mackinlay fails to implicitly disclose the claimed present invention by suggesting to one skilled in the art to modify the Cone Walker tool to navigate **"according to a geometric relation between said visual field and said particular linked content item of the information object,"** because, first, Mackinlay's Cone Walker enables navigation of the linked documents via a cone tree visualization rather than any type of geometric relationship, and second, Mackinlay fails to discuss other possible navigations of the cone tree visualization or a linked document object.

In other words, in Mackinlay the Cone Walker operation generates respective pieces of intermediate data for displaying in an arbitrary order, independently of a geometric relation

between the visual field and a particular linked content item of the information object. Thus, because in Mackinlay respective pieces of intermediate data can be generated for displaying in an arbitrary order, Mackinlay cannot provide a display priority so that a piece of intermediate data for a content item of a desired lower priority may be generated earlier than another piece of intermediate data for a content item data of a desired higher priority, and hence the other content item of the higher priority is displayed later. Mackinlay fails to disclose or suggest defining a specific order of generating the respective pieces of intermediate data taking into consideration a user viewing desire, such that in Mackinlay a specific order of generating would be required to be defined by the user for displaying.

On the other hand, when the discussions of Robertson and Mackinlay are specifically applied to the language of the independent claims 1, 15, 25, and 26, in contrast the claimed present invention provides that respective pieces of intermediate data are generated according to a geometric relation between the visual field and a particular linked content item of the information object ("**to generate the respective pieces of intermediate data** for displaying a particular linked content item of the information object, **according to a geometric relation between said visual field and said particular linked content item of the information object**" e.g., claim 1), and hence, the claimed present invention provides a new effect or benefit of automatically taking into consideration a user viewing desire, so that an order of generating the respective pieces of intermediate data is not required to be defined by the user. Another benefit of the claimed present invention is a user can respond to the information object being displayed, and view a desired content item in a short time.

Thus, a prima facie case of obviousness cannot be established based upon Robertson and Mackinlay, because Mackinlay fails to disclose or suggest to one skilled in the art to be combined with Robertson and to modify the combined system to achieve the claimed present invention's "**to generate the respective pieces of intermediate data** for displaying a particular linked content item of the information object, **according to a geometric relation between said visual field and said particular linked content item of the information object.**"

In view of the remarks, it is believed that the independent claims are patentably distinguishing over the relied upon references, and withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

## DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Further, a combined system of Robertson, Mackinlay and Gounares fails to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention as recited in dependent claims 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13. Regarding "assigning a display priority to each ... linked content item of an information object," the Office Action, for example in rejecting claim 8, relies on Robertson's sequential page display. Dependent claims 8, 9, 11 and 13, using claim 8 as an example, are amended to clarify that the display priority of a particular linked content item of an information object changes based upon **"the geometric relation between said visual field and said particular linked content item of the information object"** (amended dependent claim 8).

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

means for assigning a display priority to each of a plurality of linked content items of an information object **and changing the display priority of a particular linked content item of an information object based upon the geometric relation between said visual field and said particular linked content item of the information object;**

said first means comparing said display priority of a particular linked content item of an information object with a predetermined threshold to thereby determine whether to generate a piece of intermediate data of said particular linked content item of the information object;

said second means comparing said display priority of said particular linked content item of the information object with a predetermined threshold to thereby determine whether to generate a display image of said particular linked content item of the information object.

For example, the present Application page 32, lines 1-12 support the claim amendments.

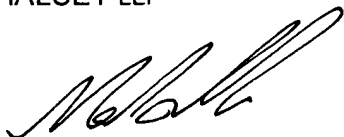
In view of the claim amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection of amended dependent claims and allowance of the amended dependent claims is respectfully requested. Other dependent claims recite either patentably distinguishing features of their own or are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependencies from the independent claims.

**CONCLUSION**

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,  
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